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Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security

Report of the First Committee

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I. Introduction

1. The item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security" was included in the provisional agenda of the fifty-fourth session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly decision 52/415 of 9 December 1997.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 17 September 1999, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 23 September 1999, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 64, 65 and 67 to 85, which was held at the 3rd to 12th meetings, from 11 to 15 and from 18 to 20 October (see A/C.1/54/PV.3-12). Thematic discussions on the items were held, and draft resolutions were introduced and considered, at the 13th to 19th meetings, on 21 and 22 and from 25 to 29 October (see A/C.1/54/PV.13-19). Action on all draft resolutions was taken at the 20th to 27th meetings, on 1, 2, 4, 5, 8 and 9 November (see A/C.1/54/PV.20-27).

4. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 5 August 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Japan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the report of the Tokyo Forum for Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (A/54/205-S/1999/853);

(b) Letter dated 3 September 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan to the United Nations

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addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Bishkek Declaration, signed on 25 August 1999 (A/54/314-S/1999/942);

(c) Letter dated 29 September 1999 from the Permanent Representatives of Brazil, Finland and Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of Rio de Janeiro and the priorities for action adopted during the first summit meeting of Heads of State and Government of Latin America and the Caribbean and the European Union, held at Rio de Janeiro on 28 and 29 June 1999 (A/54/448);

(d) Letter dated 15 October 1999 from the Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the communiqué of the meeting of Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in New York on 23 September 1999 (A/54/469-S/1999/1063).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.40 and Rev.1

5. At the 17th meeting, on 27 October, the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, on behalf of Andorra, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Maintenance of international security — stability and development of South-Eastern Europe" (A/C.1/54/L.40). Subsequently, Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Iceland, Liberia, Malta, Monaco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, San Marino and Slovakia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

6. At the 23rd meeting, on 4 November, the representative of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia introduced a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/54/L.40/Rev.1), which was subsequently also sponsored by Albania, Azerbaijan, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Ukraine and the United States of America, and which contained the following changes:

(a) A new ninth preambular paragraph was added, reading:

"*Noting, inter alia*, the importance of the Process of Stability and Good-Neighbourliness in South-East Europe (Royamont initiative), the South-East European Cooperative Initiative, the South-East European Cooperation Process, the Central European Initiative and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation for the Implementation of the Stability Pact of South-Eastern Europe;"

(b) Operative paragraph 8, which had read:

"8. *Stresses* the importance of regional efforts aimed at preventing bilateral conflicts endangering the maintenance of international peace and security and *notes with satisfaction* in that regard that the multilateral peacekeeping force for South-East Europe has become operational;"

was revised to read:

"8. *Stresses* the importance of regional efforts aimed at preventing bilateral conflicts endangering the maintenance of international peace and security and *notes with satisfaction*, in that regard, the establishment of the Multinational Peace Force for South-Eastern Europe, the headquarters of which has become operational;"

(c) A new operative paragraph 9 was added, which read:

"9. *Emphasizes* the importance of regional efforts in South-Eastern Europe on arms control, disarmament and confidence-building measures;".

7. At its 24th meeting, on 5 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/54/L.40/Rev.1 by a recorded vote of 137 to none, with 2 abstentions (see para. 10). The voting was as follows:

In favour:

Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

Belarus, China.

B. Draft decision A/C.1/54/L.50

8. At the 17th meeting, on 27 October, South Africa, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, introduced a draft decision entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security" (A/C.1/54/L.50).

9. At its 22nd meeting, on 2 November, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.1/54/L.50 without a vote (see para. 10).

III. Recommendation of the First Committee

10. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Maintenance of international security — stability and development of South-Eastern Europe

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Final Act of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1979,

Affirming its determination that all nations should live together in peace with one another as good neighbours,

Recalling also its resolutions 48/84 B of 16 December 1993, 50/80 B of 12 December 1995, 51/55 of 10 December 1996, 52/48 of 9 December 1997 and 53/71 of 4 December 1998,

Mindful of the importance of national and international activities and activities by all relevant organizations aimed at the creation of peace, security, stability, democracy, cooperation, economic development, observance of human rights and good-neighbourliness of the South-Eastern European region,

Being aware of the crucial importance of the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999 on Kosovo, Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and stressing, *inter alia*, the role and responsibilities of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, the Kosovo Force, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union in that regard,

Noting the direct negative repercussions of the Kosovo crisis on the economy of the region, and in particular, on the Republic of Albania and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as a consequence of the hosting of such a large number of refugees by them,

Welcoming the Stability Pact for South-Eastern Europe initiated by the European Union, adopted in Cologne, Germany, on 10 June 1999, and endorsed at the Sarajevo Summit of 30 July 1999, and stressing the crucial importance of its adequate and timely implementation,

Taking note of the Sarajevo Summit Declaration, in which the participants affirm their collective and individual readiness to give concrete meaning to the Pact by promoting political and economic reforms, development and enhanced security in the region and also their commitment to make every effort to assist countries in the region to make speedy and measurable progress along this road,

Noting, *inter alia*, the importance of the Process of Stability and Good-Neighbourliness in South-East Europe (Royamont initiative), the South-East European Cooperative Initiative, the South-East European Cooperation Process, the Central European Initiative and the Black Sea Economic Cooperation for the implementation of the Stability Pact of South-Eastern Europe,

1. *Affirms* the urgency of the consolidation of South-Eastern Europe as a region of peace, security, stability, democracy, cooperation, economic development, observance of human rights and good-neighbourliness, thus contributing to the maintenance of international peace and security and enhancing the prospects for sustained development and prosperity for all peoples in the region as an integral part of Europe;

2. *Calls upon* all participants of the Stability Pact, and all concerned international organizations, to support the efforts of South-Eastern European States to overcome the

negative effects of the Kosovo crisis and to enable them to pursue sustainable development and integration of their economies into the European and global economy;

3. *Affirms* the need for full observance of the Charter of the United Nations and for strict compliance with the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity and inviolability of international borders of any State;

4. *Urges* the normalization of relations among the States of South-Eastern Europe and the strengthening of their mutual cooperation on the basis of respect of international law and agreements and within the principle of good-neighbourliness and mutual respect;

5. *Stresses* the importance of good-neighbourliness and the development of friendly relations among States, the solution of problems among States and the promotion of international cooperation in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

6. *Calls upon* all States to solve their disputes with other States by peaceful means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

7. *Calls upon* all States, the relevant international organizations and competent organs of the United Nations to continue to take measures in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, as appropriate, to eliminate threats to international peace and security and to help prevent conflicts which can lead to the violent disintegration of States;

8. *Stresses* the importance of regional efforts aimed at preventing bilateral conflicts endangering the maintenance of international peace and security, and notes with satisfaction, in this regard, the establishment of the Multinational Peace Force for South-Eastern Europe, the headquarters of which, located at Plovdiv, Bulgaria, has become operational;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of regional efforts in South-Eastern Europe on arms control, disarmament and confidence-building measures;

10. *Also stresses* that closer engagement of the South-Eastern European States in furthering cooperation on the European continent will favourably influence the security, political and economic situation in the region, as well as the good-neighbourly relations among the Balkan States;

11. *Calls upon* all States and the relevant international organizations to communicate to the Secretary-General their views on the subject of the present resolution;

12. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fifth session an item entitled "Maintenance of international security — stability and development of South-Eastern Europe".

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11. The First Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security

The General Assembly decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-sixth session the item entitled "Review of the implementation of the Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security".